

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Priority

The PTO has received certified copies of the priority documents JP 11-281843 and JP 11-282120, JP 11-282134, JP 11-282167, JP 11-282188, and JP 11-282192, all of which have a priority date of October 1, 1999 and were claimed as the priority documents of PCT/JP00/06802. Therefore, as a matter of law, the earliest priority date of the present application is October 1, 1999.

Claim Objection

The spelling of the word "chimeric" has been corrected in claims 14 and 23, the claims in which the misspelling "chimereic" appeared. Claim 12 has been amended to recite recombinant and therefore differs from claim 13. Claims 22 and 23 recite different subject matter. Claim 52 now depends from claim 45 and is therefore different from claim 43. The present claims are now drawn to method of treatment claims and therefore the objection to claims 33, 42 and 51 is no longer applicable in light of claim 15.

Claim Rejections for Indefiniteness

The dependency of claims 14, 23, 32, 41 and 50 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 24 has proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections – Anticipation

The examined claims of Group II have been changed to method claims which are novel and non-obvious over the prior art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the present prior art rejections.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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